

**SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY FOR:                      October 26, 1998**

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**LAST WEEK:**

**OMNIBUS APPROPRIATIONS PACKAGE COMPLETED AND SIGNED INTO LAW-**

On Wednesday October 21, the Senate cleared the Omnibus Appropriations Bill by a vote of 65-29. The President signed the legislation into law. The House had passed the bill by a vote of 333-95 on Tuesday. The Omnibus package includes the language of 8 separate appropriations bills, as well as emergency funding to address the crisis in domestic agriculture. Emergency funding in the legislation contains an additional \$10 million for the Forestry Incentives Program (FIP) and an additional \$40 million for the salaries and expenses account of the Farm Service Agency. A few items of note in the legislation and supporting report language are as follows.

- Conferees encourage USDA to structure the terms of Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) contracts so that high priority is given to consideration of adjacent landowners, including but not limited to the maintenance of watershed protection.
- The bill provides flexibility for funding 30-year easements in the Wetlands Reserve Program and also states that enrollment in various easement options should be performed in proportion to landowner interest in the program.
- Conferees have requested a report on options to fund new RC&D areas, including a graduation component, to be filed no later than March 1, 1999.
- The bill allows for Conservation Operations funding associated with constructing the Franklin County Lake Project in Mississippi.
- The bill allows NRCS to enter into cooperative agreements without some restrictive requirements of competitive process.
- Bill language deems permanent county committee employees as federal civil servants for the purpose of applying for USDA vacancies.

**A detailed table of funding levels and analysis performed by the NRCS Budget Planning and Analysis Staff is attached to this summary.**

## **105th CONGRESS ADJOURNS - SEVERAL LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES UNFINISHED-**

Following Adoption of H. Con. Res. 353, the 105th Congress adjourned. The 106th Congress will Convene on Wednesday, January 6th at 12:00, noon. On January 6th, new and returning members of the House and Senate will take the oath of office. The adjournment of the 105th Congress means that any bills which have not passed the legislative process and been signed into law, must begin again in the 106th. Examples of two pieces of major legislation that were not reauthorized in the 105th Congress are the Endangered Species Act and the Clean Water Act. The status of select legislative initiatives in the 105th Congress are as follows:

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Bill</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>Grazing Reform</b>	H.R. 2493	Bob Smith (R-OR)	Passed the House on October 30, 1997 <b>Senate took no action</b>
<b>Animal Waste</b>	S. 1323	Tom Harkin (D-IA)	Senate Hearing on April 2, 1998 <b>no further action</b>
	H.R. 3232	George Miller (D-CA)	<b>No action</b>
<b>Civil Rights</b>	H.R. 2185	Eva Clayton (D-NC)	House Hearing held on October 23, 1997 <b>no further action</b>
	H.R. 2692	Bob Smith (R-OR)	House Hearing held on October 23, 1997 <b>no further action</b>

## **BANDELIER NATIONAL MONUMENT EXPANSION-**

Before adjourning, the House and Senate approved legislation expanding the Bandelier National Monument in New Mexico. The bill, S. 1132, sites development of the Upper Alamo Watershed, and potential threats of future flood and soil erosion as rationale for increasing the parks boundaries. Under the legislation, all acquisitions of land would take place on a voluntary basis. The President is expected to sign the bill into law.

## **CONCLUSION OF WEEKLY SUMMARIES FOR THE 105TH**

**CONGRESS-** This issue concludes NRCS Weekly Legislative Summaries for the 105th Congress. The NRCS Legislative Affairs Staff will report on the outcome of elections and expected organizational changes in the 106th Congress in coming months.

## NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

BUDGET SUMMARY TABLE  
(Dollars in Thousands)

Program	1998 Current Estimate	1999 President's Budget	1999 Senate Mark	1999 House Mark	1999 Final Appropriation
<b>Discretionary Funds:</b>					
Conservation Operations:					
Technical Assistance.....	\$541,361	\$589,110	\$546,962	\$549,105	\$547,905
Soils Surveys.....	76,409	78,323	76,409	78,323	78,323
Snow Surveys.....	5,835	5,990	5,835	5,990	5,990
Plant Materials Centers.....	8,825	7,825	9,458	7,825	9,025
Water Resources Assistance.....	n/a	70,983 a/	0	0	0
Subtotal, Conservation Operations.....	632,430	752,231	638,664	641,243	641,243
New User Fees.....	n/a	(10,000)	0	0	0
Total, Conservation Operations.....	632,430	742,231	638,664	641,243	641,243
Watershed Surveys and Planning.....	11,190	n/a a/	11,190	9,545	10,368
Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations:					
Flood Prevention - PL-534.....	15,000	0 a/	15,000	15,000	15,000
Emergency Watershed Protection Program.....	80,000	0	0	0	0
Watershed Operations - PL-566.....	86,036	49,000 a/	86,036	82,850	84,443
Total Watershed and Flood Prevention.....	181,036	49,000	101,036	97,850	99,443
Forestry Incentives Program.....	6,325	0	15,325	0	6,325
Resource Conservation and Development.....	34,377	34,377	34,377	35,000	35,000
Trust Funds.....	270	270	270	270	270
Subtotal, NRCS Discretionary.....	865,628	825,878	800,862	783,908	792,649
<b>Mandatory Funds:</b>					
Wetlands Reserve Program (CCC) b/.....	236,797	127,741	94,100	101,707	94,100
(Technical Assistance).....	(18,200)	(15,089)	(11,800)	(12,550)	(11,800)
Environmental Quality Incentives Program.....	200,000	300,000	200,000	174,000	174,000
(Technical Assistance).....	(38,000)	(30,000)	(20,000)	(33,060)	(33,060)
Conservation Farm Option (CFO).....	11,000	25,000	0	0	0
(Technical Assistance).....	(2,750)	(5,000)	(0)	(0)	(0)
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)...	30,000	20,000	20,000	0	20,000
(Technical Assistance).....	(5,000)	(5,000)	(5,000)		(5,000)
Farmland Protection Program (FPP).....	17,280	0	0	0	0
(Technical Assistance).....	(720)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)
Subtotal, NRCS Mandatory.....	495,077	472,741	314,100	275,707	288,100
Total, NRCS Funds.....	\$1,360,705	\$1,298,619	\$1,114,962	\$1,059,615	\$1,080,749

a/ Watershed Surveys and Planning and technical assistance for Watershed and Flood Prevention are reflected under Water Resources Assistance.

b/ Technical assistance in FY 1998 is paid from carry-over balance. In FY 1999, \$4 million is carry-over and \$11.089 million is from CCC under President's budget, \$7.8 million under Senate Mark and \$8.55 million under House Mark. Conference provided the same level as the Senate, \$7.8 million.

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
FY 1999 EARMARKS**

<u>STATE</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>FY 1999 FUNDING</u>	<u>FY 1999 HOUSE</u>	<u>FY 1999 SENATE</u>	<u>FY 1999 APPROPRIATIONS</u>	<u>FY 1999 PASS THROUGH</u>
<b>CONSERVATION OPERATIONS:</b>						
Alabama - *	Big Nance Creek flood retarding structures	N/A		\$75,000		None
Alaska	Native Plant Materials evaluating and developing	N/A		\$350,000	\$75,000	None
Alaska	Resurrection River North Forest Acres	N/A		\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
Arkansas	Bayou Mado and Bout/Tensas Areas/ East Arkansas	Supports	Continue	Increase Efforts	Increase Efforts	\$500,000
Arkansas	Kuhn Bayou Project	Continue		Continue	Continue	None
Arkansas - *	Peineff Channel Main Ditch Number 1	Additional Support	Support	Additional Support	Additional Support	None
Arkansas	GIS Center for Advanced Special Technology	Supports		Supports	Supports	\$30,000
Hawaii	Feasibility Study - Waianae Watershed	\$200,000				None
Hawaii	Alien Weed Pests	Fund as Necessary				\$20,000
Hawaii	PWC for Native Plants to clean up the Island of Kahoolawe	\$9,000		\$209,000	\$100,000	None
Hawaii	Mokai Agriculture Community Committee	\$250,000		\$250,000	\$250,000	\$150,000
Iowa	Drainage Wells in cooperation with Army Corps of Eng.	Cooperation			---	All
Iowa	Hungry Canyon Erosion Control/Loess Hills Erosion/Western Iowa	\$400,000		\$1,000,000	\$800,000	\$400,000
Iowa	Trees Forever Program	\$100,000			\$100,000	\$100,000
Louisiana	Through Golden Meadow PWC:					
	Crowley Rice Research Station	\$125,000			\$125,000	
	Nutria-resistant Materials Research					
	Erosion control from wetlands plants		\$300,000		\$300,000	None
MD, VA, PA	Chesapeake Bay Program	\$4,750,000	1998 Level		\$4,750,000	None
Michigan	Branch County digitization of soil maps	N/A	Work With		Work With	None
Mississippi	Indian Creek Watershed	FA to Complete				None
Mississippi	Franklin County	\$3,000,000		1998 Level	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000
Mississippi - *	Long Beach Water Management District Project	N/A		\$600,000	\$300,000	None
Mississippi	New Porters Bayou environmental assessment plan	N/A		Continue	Continue	None
Mississippi - *	Oklahoma Creek debris removal	N/A		\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	None
Mississippi	Miss. Delta Water Resources Study	\$350,000		\$600,000	\$400,000	None
Mississippi	Washington, Sharkey, and Yazoo Counties plot project to clarify and conclusively determine the proper classification and taxonomic characteristics of shankley soil			Report due to the Committee by January 31, 1999		None
New York	Westchester County SWCD	\$300,000	\$250,000		\$250,000	\$250,000
New York	Pastureland Migrant/Rotational Grazing	\$300,000	\$300,000		\$300,000	\$100,000
New York	Lake Otisco - Best Management Practices (EQIP)	* \$300,000			\$300,000	None
New York	Slametesles and Owasco Watersheds	\$250,000	\$250,000		\$250,000	\$135,000
New York	Beaver Swamp Brook T.A environmental restoration	N/A			\$250,000	None
North Carolina - *	Deep Creek Watershed plan & design in Yadkin County	N/A	\$250,000		\$500,000	None
Oklahoma	Deer Creek Watershed	\$750,000			---	None
Oregon	Powder Valley Water Control District pipeline	N/A	Repair costs		Repair costs	None
South Carolina	GIS based Model to integrate commodity and conservation	N/A		\$300,000	\$300,000	None
Texas	Bosque River Watershed (EQIP)	Consideration			Consideration	None

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Utah - *	Tri-Valley Watershed	N/A		\$1,000,000	\$500,000	\$40,000
Vermont	Lake Champlain and Lake Memphremagog (EQIP)			1998 Level	\$395,000	None
West Virginia	Anderson Plant Materials Center			\$433,000	\$433,000	None
West Virginia	Development of Water Treatment Practices from Aquaculture			Continue	Continue	\$80,000
West Virginia	Poultry Litter Composting	\$120,000		\$320,000	\$220,000	None
West Virginia	Long Range Grazing Land Initiative	\$300,000		\$300,000	\$300,000	None
West Virginia	Knappe Creek for flood geomorphological stream restore.	N/A		\$15,000,000	\$15,000,000	None
Not Specified	Grazing Lands Initiative	\$15,000,000	\$15,000,000	\$350,000	\$500,000	None
Not Specified	Great Lakes Basin Program For Soil & Erosion Sediment	\$350,000	\$500,000			None
Not Specified	Great Lakes Watershed Initiative	Provide TA & Fund				None
Not Specified	Community Leadership Alliance for Sustainable Dev. Prog.	\$100,000				None
Not Specified	Demonstration Erosion Control Prog. w/ Corp. of Eng.	Cooperation				None
Not Specified	Plant Materials for use in CRP and WRP	N/A		\$1,000,000		None
Not Specified	Potomac and Ohio River Basin Soil Nutrient Project	N/A		\$160,000	\$100,000	None
Not Specified	Report on total expenditures on the American Heritage River Initiative by fiscal year; a list of all activities being carried out and/or planned in support of the AHR and their associated costs; and the number of personnel assigned to work on this initiative and the amount of their time spent working on this initiative.		Report due to Committee by December 15, 1998			None
Not Specified	Urban Resources Partnership		Continue Particip.			None
Not Specified	Evaluate applications & designate not less than 2 national priority areas (EQIP)	N/A		Adequate funding	Adequate funding	None
Not Specified	Evaluate odor and water quality pollution risk areas	N/A		Urges use of locally led assessments		None
Not Specified	Conduct voluntary on-farm assessments for the pork industry's On-Farm Odor/Environmental Assistance Program (EQIP)				Maximum Extent Possible	None
Not Specified	National Water Management Center	N/A	Maximum Extent Possible 1998 Level		1998 Level	None
<b>TOTAL CONSERVATION OPERATIONS</b>		<b>\$25,654,000</b>	<b>\$16,850,000</b>	<b>\$24,447,000</b>	<b>\$31,738,000</b>	<b>\$6,175,000</b>

**WATERSHED AND FLOOD PREVENTION OPERATIONS:**

<u>STATE</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>FY 1998 FUNDING</u>	<u>FY 1999 HOUSE</u>	<u>FY 1999 SENATE</u>	<u>FY 1999 APPROPRIATIONS</u>	<u>FY 1998 PACS THROUGH</u>
California	Chino River Delta Reserve Project, San Bernardino					None
Florida	Four Pilot Projects in No. FL (Dairy and Poultry Cleanup)					None
Hawaii	Water Storage and Delivery Systems					None
IA, OH, WV, & VA	Little Sioux and Mesquit Creek, IA; Little Auglaize, OH; Bush River, VA; and Potomac Headwaters, WV					None
MS, PA, OR, NY	26 Counties, Plus Tioga, PA; Deadman-Bullard Project, Lakewood, OR; Port Gibson, MS; and Seely Creek, NY					None
Mississippi	South Delta Watershed					None
New York	Vigil Creek Watershed, Cortland & Tompkins Counties					None

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New York	New Town Hoffman Flood Control Project, Chemung County	N/A	Continue Progress		Continue Progress	None
New Jersey	Ropaupo Creek watershed, Greenwich & Logan Townships	N/A		Assist	Assist	None
North Carolina	S-D Project in Yadkin County	N/A	Continue Progress		Continue Progress	None
North Dakota	Park River Dam #5	Continue Progress			---	None
North Dakota	Devil's Lake Basin	Continue Progress		Continue & Assist	Continue Progress	None
Oklahoma	Stillwater Creek Flood Project	N/A	Continue Progress		Continue Progress	None
Oklahoma	North Deer Creek Watershed	Continue Progress			Continue Progress	None
Oregon	Deadman-Bullard Project	N/A	Continue Progress	Complete	Cont Prog/Compl	None
Pennsylvania	Tulpehocken Creek Watershed Project, Berks and Lebanon County	N/A	Continue Progress		Continue Progress	None